

## EARTH DAY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on Earth Day, we celebrate an important milestone of the modern environmental movement in 1970, and we celebrate three decades of progress in protecting the environment. Thanks to the persistence and hard work of environmental champions from all walks of life, Americans enjoy cleaner air and cleaner water than in 1970.

Yet we still have far to go to achieve a sustainable approach to living on the Earth. We need leaders who have the vision to see that the fate of human beings and the environment are inextricably intertwined. We need leaders who appreciate that with new ideas, new practices, and new technologies, we can enjoy prosperity and economic growth without sacrificing the environment.

Instead, in his first 100 days in leadership, President Bush has acted swiftly to roll back a series of initiatives to protect the environment and human health:

Arsenic. Revoked new regulations to reduce the level of arsenic, a known carcinogen, in drinking water.

Hard-rock mining. Dumped new regulations that would make it tougher for mining companies to walk away from pollution caused by mining.

Global warming. Broke his campaign promise to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary cause of global warming.

Kyoto protocol. Announced that the United States—which has already signed the Kyoto protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—will withdraw from any further negotiations and will not seek ratification of the climate change treaty.

National forests. Postponed rules to protect 58 million acres in our national forests by prohibiting new roads, and is widely expected to try to overturn the new rules completely.

National monuments. Encouraged proposals to change boundaries and loosen protections against mining and logging operations in the new monuments.

Energy efficiency. Scaled back regulations to make air conditioners and heat pumps more efficient—at a time when electricity is in short supply and prices are shooting up in California and around the country. Electricity generation is a major contributor to air and water pollution.

In the new millennium, we must realize that the environment is central to our lives. Because of global warming, it is predicted that the oceans could rise by as much as three feet in the period between 1990 and 2100. In San Francisco, where the ocean is already practically lapping at our feet, it is daunting to think about the damage the rising waters are likely to cause to our peninsula.

This Administration seeks 19th century solutions to 21st century problems. The Administration's policies on energy and global warming are a prime example. Faced with energy shortages and high energy prices, the Administration advocates increased drilling for oil

and gas. Yesterday, the White House reaffirmed its commitment to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of our priceless natural treasures. In the face of world-wide concern about global warming, the Administration has renounced the climate change treaty.

The Administration is responding to pressure from many companies in the electricity, coal, oil, and gas industries to continue with business as usual. But instead of clinging to the energy policies of the past, the United States should lead the world in developing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

I salute business leaders who recognize the value of environmental protection. In fact, a number of major corporations have recognized the threat of global warming and are acting to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. But sometimes the corporate sector needs a push to adopt new technologies and new ways of thinking. We need political leaders who understand this dynamic.

No discussion of the environment is complete without focussing on environmental justice.

Environmental health will be a major human rights issue in the 21st century. Everyone has the right to live in an environment free of deadly pollutants and toxic waste, and every child has a right to be born free of exposure to toxic chemicals. But today, millions of Americans are exposed to dangerous contaminants in our food, water, air, and even our mother's milk. Minority and low-income communities are particularly vulnerable to environmental health hazards, since the factories and waste dumps that emit pollutants are often located near poor or minority communities that have less political power.

Last Thursday, President Bush announced the United States would sign the treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that was negotiated by the Clinton Administration. I am delighted that the US will sign the POPs treaty, which will ban or phase out 12 pollutants that are extremely hazardous to the health of humans and animals. But I note that the treaty is supported by the chemical industry—so this excellent decision did not require political courage or vision. Furthermore, we should ensure that new chemicals are safe to human health and the ecosystem before they become pervasive in our air, water, food, and our bodies.

This Administration is still living in the 20th century when it comes to environmental issues. It's time to move into the 21st century. Working together, we can make each Earth Day a celebration of progress, not a day of protest.

---

TRIBUTE HONORING OFFICER DON WYBLE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Salida patrolman, Don Wyble. On March 20, Don was named "Police Officer of the Year" for the

11th Judicial District for his outstanding work as a police officer during the past year. Don is the second Salida Police Officer to be recognized as the "Officer of the Year."

According to Salida Police Chief, Darwin Hibbs, Don was nominated for his work both on and off duty. Don serves as the chairman of the Chaffee County Adult Protection Team, which discusses the needs of elderly citizens and then attempts to provide services. He also serves as the police department's liaison with Triad, a group dedicated to protecting the public from large scale scams. "I think Don represents our department well. He has a tremendous work ethic and has always done a tremendous job," said Hibbs in a recent article from the Mountain Mail.

Don began his work with the police department as a reserve in 1980. In 1988 he was upgraded to full-time code enforcement, and then in the spring of 1990, Don was promoted to patrolman. "I have to be proud of the opportunity to represent Salida. This award is for all of the department, not just me. It takes all of us to get the job done."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask that we take this opportunity to thank Don for his service to the community of Salida, Colorado. I know that Don will continue to protect and serve his community for years to come.

Don, your community, state and nation are proud of you!

---

FREE TRADE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of members an editorial appearing in today's Wall Street Journal which is headlined "Free Trade Doesn't Require Treaties". The column is authored by Pierre Lemieux, a professor of economics at the University of Quebec.

Professor Lemieux seems to grasp quite well what few in Congress have come to understand—that is, "The primary rationale for free trade is not that exporters should gain larger markets, but that consumers should have more choice—even if the former is a consequence of the latter." Mr. Lemieux went on to point out that the leaders of the 34 participating states in the recent Quebec summit "are much keener on managed trade than on free trade and more interested in income redistribution and regulation than in the rooting out of trade restrictions."

The professor's comments are not unlike those of the late economist Murray N. Rothbard, devotee of the methodologically-superior Austrian school, who, with respect to NAFTA, had the following to say:

[G]enuine free trade doesn't require a treaty (or its deformed cousin, a 'trade agreement'; NAFTA is called an agreement so it can avoid the constitutional requirement of approval by two-thirds of the Senate). If the establishment truly wants free trade, all it has to do is to repeal our numerous tariffs, import quotas, anti-dumping laws, and other American-imposed restrictions of free trade.